



Robert Taylor Burton (1821-1907) played in the Nauvoo brass band, served as a missionary, and was a member of the Nauvoo Legion in Utah, a deputy to the territorial marshal, a member of the board of regents for the University of Deseret, and a member of the legislative body of Utah. He was bishop of the Fifteenth Ward in Salt Lake. In 1875 he was called to serve as a counselor in the Presiding Bishopric of the Church.

attempted to escape were imprisoned by Morris, causing their appeal to legal authorities for assistance. Chief Justice Kinney issued on 22 May for the release of the prisoners and the arrest of Morris' main lieutenants. When Morris refused to obey and continued to announce his revelations, Kinney urged acting governor Frank Fuller to lead the militia as a posse to enforce the writs.

Robert T. Burton, chief deputy for the territorial marshal, led approximately 250 men to the bluffs south of Kington Fort early in the morning of 13 June. They sent a message to Morris demanding his unconditional compliance with the writ. Morris and his group assembled in a bowery while Morris awaited a revelation. Impatient with the delay, Burton ordered two warning shots from a cannon to be fired over the fort. The second shot fell short, struck the plowed ground in front of the fort, ricocheted into the bowery where the Morrisites were assembled, and several women were killed, and a young girl was seriously wounded. The fort that erupted resulted in a three-day siege.

On the third day a white flag of truce appeared from inside the fort, and the fighting ceased. After demanding unconditional surrender, Burton and thirty militiamen entered the fort. Morris then asked the privilege of speaking to his people one more time. But instead of delivering a farewell address, he shouted, "All who are for me and my God, in life or in death follow me!" Whereupon a rush was made for the stacked rifles that had been ordered.⁷ Shots rang out, and Joseph Morris and John Banks, second in command, were killed. Ten Morrisites and two members of the Utah militia were killed during the three days of fighting. Ninety Morrisites were taken to Salt Lake City for trial on charges of murdering the two members and resisting due process of law. Seven of them were convicted, but they were pardoned by Governor Harding. Most of the remaining Morrisites who wished to go were escorted by Connor's army to Pocatello in Idaho Territory. Although the Church was not directly involved in this unfortunate affair, the reputation of the Church suffered in the early result.